

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LONDON 07926 132011Z

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FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3843

UNCLAS LONDON 07926

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PGOU, ETRN

SUBJECT: TRANSPORT MINISTRY ORGANIZATION

REF: STATE 104263

DEPT. PASS DOT FOR J. HERZ

1. IN THE UNITED KINGDOM, RESPONSIBILITIES FOR TRANSPORTATION ARE DIVIDED BETWEEN TWO MINISTRIES, THE DEPARTMENT OF TRADE (INTERNATIONAL AIR AND MARITIME TRANSPORT) AND THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORT. THE LATTER IS RESPONSIBLE FOR DOMESTIC TRANSPORT SYSTEMS (RAIL, ROAD, CANAL, URBAN TRAFFIC PLANNING, ROAD SAFETY, ETC.) OTHER THAN DOMESTIC AVIATION WHICH IS CONTROLLED BY THE CIVIL AVIATION AUTHORITY (CAA). THE CAA IS ROUGHLY EQUIVALENT TO A COMBINED US CIVIL AERONAUTICS BOARD AND FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION. THE RIGHT HONORABLE EDMUND DELL, M.P., IS SECRETARY OF STATE FOR TRADE, WHILE WILLIAM RODGERS IS SECRETARY OF STATE FOR TRANSPORT.

2. UK DELEGATION TO THE ECMT MEETING AT ATHENS WILL BE THE FOLLOWING:

(A) HEAD OF DELEGATION - RIGHT HONORABLE WILLIAM RODGERS (MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT), SECRETARY OF
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STATE FOR TRANSPORT;

(B) MR. MICHAEL BANISTER, UNDER SECRETARY FOR INTERNATIONAL TRANSPORT AND NATIONALIZED INDUSTRIES,
DEPT. OF TRANSPORT;

(C) SENIOR PRINCIPAL, DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORT,

MR. CHRIS PITTAM;

(D) CHIEF OF THE INFORMATION OFFICE, DEPARTMENT OF
TRANSPORT, MRS. JANET HEWLETT-DAVIES

3. PRINCIPAL PROGRAMS: THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORT IS A NEW MINISTRY IN THE UK GOVERNMENT. IT WAS ESTABLISHED IN SEPTEMBER 1976. BEFORE THAT TIME, FOR SEVERAL YEARS, TRANSPORT CAME UNDER THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT. THE NEW DEPARTMENT INHERITED A GOVERNMENT PROGRAM BEGUN IN MAY 1976 TO ESTABLISH A NEW, COORDINATED TRANSPORT POLICY. AT THAT TIME, A "NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION POLICY CONSULTATION DOCUMENT" WAS ISSUED TO FOCUS DEBATE ON THE PARAMETERS OF A LONG RANGE POLICY (SEE LONDON AIRGRAM A-379 OF MAY 10, 1976). MR. RODGERS AND HIS DEPARTMENT HAVE HAD AS THE FIRST ORDER OF BUSINESS THE REFINEMENT OF THIS DOCUMENT. ON THE BASIS OF THIS WORK, A "WHITE PAPER" IS EXPECTED TO BE ISSUED IN THE NEXT SEVERAL WEEKS, PERHAPS BEFORE THE ECMT MEETING, OUTLINING THE GOALS, PROJECTS AND PLANS FOR THE NEXT SEVERAL YEARS IN TRANSPORT. THIS WORK IS THE MAJOR PROGRAM WHICH HAS OCCUPIED THE MINISTRY'S EFFORTS SINCE IT WAS ESTABLISHED LAST YEAR. MAJOR ISSUES WHICH ARE EXPECTED TO BE COVERED IN THE WHITE PAPER ARE OUTLINED IN LONDON'S AIRGRAM REFERENCED ABOVE. SPIERS

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